



## Historic Preservation and the DOE Historian

**BACKGROUND:** It is the Department of Energy's (DOE's) policy to maintain a history program; to write the official history of the Department and its predecessor agencies; to create and maintain the Department's archives; and to provide institutional memory for the Department, its laboratories, and contractors. The DOE Historian leads the History Division, established by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission in 1957, in meeting the objectives of the Department's history program. The Historian serves as a valuable resource to DOE staff in historic preservation activities.

**STATUTE:** National Historic Preservation Act, as amended.

**REGULATIONS:** 36 CFR Part 63 "Determinations of Eligibility for Inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places."

36 CFR Part 79 "Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections."

36 CFR Part 800 "Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties."

36 CFR Part 1220 "Federal Records Management."

**REFERENCES:** U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Information Resources Management, DOE Order 1324.2A, *Records Disposition*.

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of the Executive Secretariat, DOE Order 1324.7A, *Departmental History Program*.

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Guidance. *The Environmental Guidance Program Reference Book: The National Historic Preservation Act and Related Legislation*. ORNL/M-1178, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, 1990.

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Guidance, "Cultural Resources Management Information Brief, National Historic Preservation Act," June 1992.

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Guidance memorandum, "Management of Cultural Resources at Department of Energy Facilities," February 1990.

### Purpose of the DOE Historian

The DOE Historian functions in three key roles as leader of the History Division:

☐ **Educator.** The DOE Historian and staff research significant events, people, and developments that have involved the Department and its predecessor agencies. The Historian communicates the importance of DOE's history through publications, presentations, policy support, and participation in DOE's Cultural Resource Management (CRM) workshop.

☐ **Archivist.** The DOE Historian ensures that important records and documents of the Department are permanently preserved. The History Division maintains DOE's archives until the materials are offered to the

National Archives as part of the country's official record.

☐ **Advisor.** The DOE Historian offers expertise and assistance to Department managers regarding DOE history and archival projects. The Historian and History Division assist DOE managers in identifying DOE artifacts and records of historical value, interpreting historical materials, and preparing site and program histories. The DOE Historian can provide important historical data to support nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.

### Duties and Responsibilities of the Historian

In meeting the objectives of the DOE history program, the DOE Historian and staff carry out the following duties and responsibilities:

- ❑ writing histories of major DOE policies and programs, including the history of predecessor agencies;
- ❑ providing institutional memory for the Department (institutional memory is the recollection of past policies, programs, organizations, and personnel of DOE and its predecessor agencies);
- ❑ preparing pamphlets, monographs, articles, chronologies, bibliographies, and special studies of importance to the Department;
- ❑ serving as the professional liaison between the History Division and professional and academic groups, including other Federal agencies;
- ❑ determining the historical value of non-current records and artifacts;
- 0 authorizing the research and writing of all historical compilations and archival projects conducted at DOE sites and Headquarters;
- ❑ accepting, on behalf of the Secretary, gifts of oral history, tapes and transcripts, personal papers, and other historical artifacts and materials relevant to the history and mission of DOE;
- ❑ coordinating requests for National Archives approval of permanent records and their disposal after they are microfilmed;
- ❑ maintaining DOE archives and identifying records of historical importance; and
- ❑ assisting in curatorial duties involving material culture.

### **DOE Historian's Involvement in Departmental Historic Preservation Procedures**

DOE is committed to protecting the prehistoric, historic, and Native American cultural resources under its jurisdiction that contribute to an understanding of American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture. The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) directs Federal agencies to protect cultural resources in a spirit of stewardship for the inspiration and benefit of present and future generations. Responsibilities of DOE under the NHPA include: identifying and evaluating cultural resources under DOE jurisdiction, nominating properties to

the *National Register of Historic Places*, considering impacts to cultural resources when evaluating proposed actions, and developing ways to mitigate adverse impacts to cultural resources.

The DOE has designated a Federal Preservation Officer (FPO) located in the Office of Environmental Guidance to coordinate the Department's activities under the NHPA. The DOE Historian works closely with the FPO to support the Department's NHPA responsibilities. The FPO offers guidance to DOE staff responsible for CRM activities in meeting their responsibilities as defined by Federal statutes related to CRM.

The DOE Historian offers technical expertise and advice to DOE managers in carrying out their CRM responsibilities, which include the careful inventory and evaluation of cultural resources under DOE jurisdiction. The DOE Historian assists DOE managers in identifying and accessing historical records and other materials that document the significance of cultural resources. The DOE Historian is a source of expertise in conducting historical research; interpreting historical materials; and providing general advice to DOE managers concerning possible professional services for history, archival, and curatorial projects.

### **Types of DOE Records and Documents of Historical Value:**

Official records of DOE are defined as:

"...all books, papers, maps, photographs, machine readable materials, or other documentary materials, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made or received by an agency of the United States Government under Federal law or in connection with the transaction of public business and preserved or appropriate for preservation by that agency or its legitimate successor as evidence of the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations, or other activities of the Government or because of the informational value or data in them. Library and museum material made or acquired and preserved solely for reference or exhibition purposes, extra copies of documents preserved only for convenience of reference, and stocks of publications and of processed documents are not included." (See 36 CFR Part 1220.14.)

Records have historical value if they preserve a reasonable portrait of significant events in American history or culture. Historical DOE records include those reflecting

significant decisions or events in energy development, regulation, and management. Of special value are records related to events that generated extensive public interest or controversy. Records may be of historical value if they describe the origin, organization, procedures, and functions of DOE programs. The National Archives and Record Administration makes the final determination on the historical value of Federal records.

DOE records of historical value are often found in files containing the following:

- ☐ Presidential or White House correspondence;
- ☐ correspondence with Members of Congress;
- ☐ internal correspondence with heads of Departmental elements, and other key DOE officials;
- ☐ notes or records of meetings or telephone conversations by heads of Departmental elements;
- ☐ memoirs and transcripts of interviews with officials, participants, and observers of Departmental events and programs;
- ☐ background material in significant policy or operational studies, office diaries, and logs;
- 0 environmental monitoring records;
- 0 accident and incident reports;
- 0 construction and modification reports;
- 0 photographs of buildings and landscapes on or near DOE sites;
- 0 material shipment records;
- 0 cost and financial data (excluding personnel salary data); and
- 0 records of material cultural objects and artifacts.

Non-written materials may also contain significant historical information. Such materials include design and construction drawings, photographs of DOE facilities, scientific and technological equipment used at DOE

facilities, and archaeological artifacts recovered from excavations at DOE sites. These non-written materials may possess historical value (1) when they document DOE structures or programs associated with noteworthy events or individuals, or, (2) in the case of buildings or technology, they are original in design, representative of a style or period of architecture, or are the work of an acclaimed architect or engineer. Archaeological artifacts may yield important information regarding prehistoric and historic events that occurred at current DOE sites.

## Other Locations of Historic Records and Materials

Historical records and materials may be found in various locations. When conducting historical research, DOE staff responsible for CRM activities should investigate DOE sources for materials of historical value including the Records Holding Administration and the Real Property Office on site.

DOE historic preservation responsibilities include the protection of all cultural resources under the Department's jurisdiction. In addition to historic resources associated with DOE and its predecessor agencies, DOE must consider resources of local historic and prehistoric significance and resources significant to Native American culture. Study of non-DOE-related cultural and Native American resources should include research at local universities, public libraries, local historical societies, and Native American organizations as well as interviews with individuals familiar with local history and culture.

## Publications Produced by the DOE Historian's Office

The DOE Historian's office coordinates with program offices, operation offices, and contractors to produce various publications. These publications, available through the Historian's office, include the following:

- ☐ Books that provide a detailed and extensive interpretation of major DOE issues and policies. These include:

Cantelon, Philip L. and Robert C. Williams. *Crisis Contained. The Department of Energy at Three Mile Island*. Afterword by Jack M. Holl. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1982.

Carlisle, Rodney P. and August W. Giebelhaus. *Bartlesville Energy Research Center. The Federal Government in Petroleum Research 1918-1983*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Energy, 1986.

Duncan, Francis. *Rickover and the Nuclear Navy: The Discipline of Theology*. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1989.

Engler, Richard E. *Atomic Power in Space*. Washington, DC: Department of Energy, 1987.

Hewlett, Richard G. and Oscar E. Anderson, Jr. *The New World, 1939/1946*. Volume I of *A History of the Atomic Energy Commission*. Reprint. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990.

Hewlett, Richard G. and Francis Duncan. *Nuclear Navy 1947-1962*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1974.

Hewlett, Richard G. and Francis Duncan. *Atomic Shield, 1947-1952*. Volume II of *A History of the Atomic Energy Commission*. Reprint. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990.

Hewlett, Richard G. and Jack M. Holl. *Atoms for Peace and War: The Eisenhower Administration and the Atomic Energy Commission, 1953-1961*. Volume III of *A History of the Atomic Energy Commission, 1953-1961*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989.

- ❑ Institutional History Monographs that provide condensed analyses on DOE issues and policy. These include:

Anders, Roger M. "The Office of Military Application." November 1978 (Revised August 1980).

Anders, Roger M. "The Federal Energy Administration." November 1980.

Anders, Roger M., Jack M. Holl and Alice L. Buck. "The United States Nuclear Weapon Testing Program: A Summary History." (Draft) June 1987.

Anders, Roger and Marie Hallion. "The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission." (Revised Draft) February 1993.

Buck, Alice L. "The Office of Oil and Gas Natural Supply Development." November 1978 (Revised August 1980).

Buck, Alice L. "A History of the Atomic Energy Commission." July 1983.

Gosling, F.G. "The Manhattan Project: Science in the Second World War." August 1990.

Hewlett, Richard G. "Federal Policy for the Disposal of Highly Radioactive Wastes from Commercial Nuclear Power Plants: An Historical Analysis." (Draft) November 1982.

Holl, Jack M. "The United States Department of Energy: A History." (Draft) November 1982.

Holl, Jack M., Roger M. Anders and Alice L. Buck. "The United States Civilian Nuclear Power Policy, 1954 - 1984: A Summary History." February 1986.

- ❑ Special projects provide historical background on specific DOE sites. These include:

Duncan, Francis and Jack M. Holl. "Shippingport: The Nation's First Atomic Power Station." March 1983.

Gerber, Michelle S. "Legacy and Legend: Fifty Years of Defense Production at the Hanford Site." January 1992.

- ❑ Special support briefs and papers. These include:

- Environmental Restoration and Waste Management,
- Peaceful Science,
- Technology Transfer,
- Departmental Historical Overview, and
- Production Reactors.

**Questions of policy or questions requiring policy decisions will not be addressed in EH-232 Information Briefs unless that policy has already been established through appropriate documentation. Please refer any questions concerning the subject material covered in this Information Brief to Lois Thompson, Federal Preservation Officer, Office of Environmental Guidance, EH-232, (202) 586-9581. For further information on how the DOE Historian can assist in DOE historic preservation activities, please contact Benjamin Franklin Cooling, Chief Historian, History Division, (HR-35), (301) 903-5431.**